Welcome!
The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is pleased to present this educational series of lectures on how to do family research. As one of the nation’s premier genealogy institutions, it is our mission to inform the public about the National Archives’ holdings that relate to family history and to make those holdings available.
About the Lecture Series

Lectures demonstrate how to use federal records and other resources for genealogical research for beginning to experienced family historians. Our presenters include experts from the National Archives nationwide representing our facilities in College Park, MD; Denver, CO; New York City, NY; St. Louis, MO; and Washington, DC.
Join the conversation!

Participate with the presenters and other family historians during the live event.

Live Chat on YouTube: log in and type your questions and comments

Join us at @USNatArchives on Twitter #GenieSeries2021
## May Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
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| Tuesday, May 4 | Preserving and Digitizing Personal Photo Albums and Scrapbooks | Sara Holmes  
Conservator in Preservation Programs  
National Archives at St. Louis, MO |
|               |                                                    | Noah Durham  
Supervisory Preservation Specialist  
National Archives at St. Louis, MO |
| Wednesday, May 12 | Finding Genealogy Resources and Tools on Archives.gov | Sarah Swanson  
Website Liaison  
National Archives at College Park, MD |
| Wednesday, May 19 | Tips and Tools for Engaging Family with Your Research Finds | Missy McNatt  
Education Specialist  
National Archives in Washington, DC |
|               |                                                    | Dorothy Dougherty  
Virtual Public Programs Director  
National Archives at New York City, NY |
## June Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 1</td>
<td>From Here to There: Researching Office of Indian Affairs Employees</td>
<td>Cara Moore Lebonick&lt;br&gt;Reference Archives Specialist&lt;br&gt;National Archives at St. Louis, MO</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 p.m. ET</td>
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<td>Cody White&lt;br&gt;Archivist and Native American Related Records&lt;br&gt;Subject Matter Expert&lt;br&gt;National Archives at Denver, CO</td>
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<td>Tuesday, June 8</td>
<td>Civil War Union Noncombatant Personnel: Teamsters, Laundresses, Nurses, Sutlers, and more</td>
<td>Claire Kluskens&lt;br&gt;Genealogy/Census Subject Matter Expert and Digital Projects Archivist&lt;br&gt;National Archives in Washington, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 p.m. ET</td>
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<td>Theresa Fitzgerald&lt;br&gt;Director&lt;br&gt;National Archives at St. Louis, MO</td>
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<td>Tuesday, June 15</td>
<td>Merchant Marine Records at The National Archives at St. Louis</td>
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Chat, Captioning, Handout & Event Evaluation

After the broadcast, the video presentation and handout will remain available.

Chat - log in to
- participate
- ask questions

Show More
- captioning
- handout
- evaluation
Tips and Tools for Engaging Family with Your Research Finds

As the family historian, you have amassed information and records that one day will pass to the next family historian. How do you share your findings with others? How you engage young family members involved with all your hard research may be another story. Education staff members Missy McNatt and Dorothy Dougherty will demonstrate fun and engaging ways to connect your research to family members, including your grandchildren. This lecture will highlight activities related to our most popular genealogy records, such as immigrant ship arrivals, U.S. Census records, naturalization records, and military and pension files. Staff will also demonstrate new ways to share your research finds in the social media world, using social media formats.
Missy Briscoe McNatt is an education specialist at the National Archives in Washington, DC, where she has worked since June 2006. She is the coordinator for the District of Columbia National History Day program, manages the Boeing Learning Center in the National Archives Museum, presents workshops to teachers and students, and contributes to education materials developed by the Education Team. Missy has facilitated a Genealogy Camp for Kids at the National Archives for the past seven years. Before working for the National Archives and Records Administration, she taught history and civics for many years. She earned her B.A. in history and anthropology from Sweet Briar College in Virginia and her M.A. in education with a minor in history from the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore, MD.
Dorothy Dougherty is the Virtual Public Programs Director at the National Archives at New York City and team leader for its Public, Education, and Outreach programs. She serves as a community leader with various federal, state and non-government organizations, bridging the use of documentary evidence to further civic literacy and awareness of the National Archives. As part of the Education and Public Programs Division of NARA, she provides virtual programs for a national audience. In her 20 years at NARA, she has presented programs and spoken at various local and national archival, genealogical, educational and historical conferences. She has a B.A. in history from Molloy College and an M.A. in history and an Archives Certificate from C.W. Post, Long Island University.
Tips and Tools for Engaging Family
with Your Research Finds

May 19, 2021
Connect Your Family with Stories and Records

We will demonstrate fun and engaging ways to:

- Share examples of federal records
- Use National Archives educational activities
- Showcase common connections using personal interests and stories of the National Archives
- Engage those stories online.

Why share your story?

Lessons Learned from NARA’s Annual Genealogy Camp for Kids:
• Kids want to connect to the past
• Research teaches civics
• Research gets kids involved in the democratic process (e.g., census-taking, immigration, military service, voting, etc.)
We learned that genealogy research:

- Promotes critical thinking
- Promotes an authentic learning environment
- Strengthens family ties and gives family members something to discuss
Are young people interested in research?

YES!
• Many are passionate about history; history fan
• Family member does genealogy (Grandmother is an Ancestry.com aficionado)
• Completed DNA testing and want to fill in missing information
• Family trips, such as Ellis Island, inspire a desire to learn about the past
• School project encourages an interest
• Enjoy research, solving puzzles and challenges!

A student researches at the National Archives Genealogy Camp.
Lessons Learned from NARA’s Genealogy Camp

Great grandfather registered for the Draft!
I found my 2x great grandpa’s Civil War record!
Lessons Learned from NARA’s Genealogy Camp

What’s the oldest document in your family?
What Does your Family Tree Look Like?

Families include all who love and support each other!
What Does Your Family Tree Look Like?

A family also can include pets!
Connect Family by Creating a Family Tree—Activity

www.archives.gov/education/family-history
Start a Family Tree

The National Archives Education Staff developed several templates to help you create a family tree.

This tree lists out members in your family.

Download all of them at: www.archives.gov/education/family-history
An example of a generic tree.

Download all of them at:
www.archives.gov/education/family-history
An example of a “blended family” tree.

Download all of them at:
www.archives.gov/education/family-history
Photo trees work too!

Download at:
www.archives.gov/education/
family-history
Family Tree (continued)

Download at: www.archives.gov/education/family-history
Documenting family recipes is a great way to celebrate your ethnic heritage.

Here is a recipe for pound cake handed down through the Truman family. It was given to Bess W. Truman by Mary Ethel and Nellie Noland, cousins of Harry S. Truman.

200-year-old pound cake recipe:
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/6779856
Create your own food tree or family recipe book. It’s quite easy, fun, and a very different take on the traditional tree!

- Start your Investigation. Ask everyone these questions:
  - What is one of your favorite foods?
  - Why is it your favorite? Did someone special make it?
- Document your recipe (writing or drawing each food.)

Apple Pie
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/34929597
Do you know kids in your family who can draw, knit, crochet, embroider, craft, or write poems or stories?

Consider creating a family record using their talents (similar to the family record examples in the National Archives).

A sampler created in 1793 by Mary Hearn of Nantucket. 

Laura Goodale, daughter of Chester and Asenath Goodale, made this family record which her mother submitted along with her widow’s pension application, as proof of her marriage to Chester Goodale, Revolutionary War veteran.

Chester served as a private for 15 months in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Asenath was awarded a pension of $50 a year.

Sampler of Chester Goodale, ca. 1809
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1656127
In 1842 Margaret Dickisson, widow of Revolutionary War veteran Isaac Dickisson, filed a pension application with the War Dept. Margaret received $96 a year based on the documents filed on her behalf, including this illustrated family record.

Isaac served in the 4th Jersey Regiment of the New Jersey Line.

Fraktur of the Family of Isaac Dickisson
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/300208
Connect the Family Tree — Hobbies (continued)

Create your own family tree activity sheets inspired by the holdings of the National Archives.

Download at:
www.archives.gov/education/family-history
Activity: On a piece of paper -

- Add your family name at the top
- Add important information
- Add designs to compliment your record, e.g., a tree, house, bird, flower, etc.

Be as creative as you want to be!

Dondero Family Record, created by Cadence, age 12.
Connect important stories of immigrant arrivals.

For Example:
• Who in the family arrived?
• When?
• From where?

www.docsteach.org/activities/teacher/exploring-americas-diversity-luther-powell-beginner
What are the comparisons with the naturalized person?

Similarities and/or differences to your current family?


Colin Powell: [https://catalog.archives.gov/id/6680449](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/6680449)
How did your ancestors come to America?

- Through Ellis Island?
- Other location?

Did they come through Angel Island? Did they arrive a different way?

Quarantine Station, Angel Island, California, https://catalog.archives.gov/id/176251230
Ask simple questions to engage your family?

Do you know what they brought with them when they arrived?

Photograph of Immigrants Landing at Ellis Island
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/595034
Engage younger kids by asking them what they would bring for a journey to a new life.

Ask them to document important items.

Use their answers to connect with your research finds.

Photograph of a Family with Their Covered Wagon During the Great Western Migration, https://catalog.archives.gov/id/518267
Depending on the records you have:

- Identify the arrival record and year.
- Identify on a map where he/she emigrated from.
- Where did they arrive in the U.S.? At what age?

Immigration into the United States 1820–1924
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/6704472
Map your own family story using National Archives Education activity sheets.

Download at: www.archives.gov/education/family-history
Talk about:

• Why your family came to America.
• Where your family now lives and why?
• What would your young relatives take if they made such a journey today?

[Map of the United States of America]

www.docsteach.org/documents/document/map-united-states
Map your own family story using National Archives Education activity sheets.

Download at: www.archives.gov/education/family-history
Common Connections—U.S. Federal Census Records “Interview” Activity

“Common Connections” Interview Activity:

• Use the 1940 Census to locate your family.
• Interview family members to compare/contrast current world with your 1940 family.
• Highest grade of school completed?
• This is a great way to engage the younger members of your family.

*Use this activity with the other Census records for as far back as you can trace your family.

Tip: Begin with the most current census year available and work backwards. With the 72-year restriction on access to the Census, the most current year available is 1940.
“Geographic Connections” Activity:

- Locate the same family member on multiple Census records.
  For example, pull the 1940, 1930, and 1920 Census for your relative.
- Outline where he/she lived on a map.
- Talk about why your family may have moved away or stayed in the same general location.

LaChappa Family Photograph at Barona
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/170100929
Where did the family member live according to the 1940 Census?

For Example:
• Catherine Felten lived at 7807 74th Street, Glendale, Queens, NY.
Where did the family member live according to the 1930 Census?

For Example:

- Catherine Felten lived at the same place in 1930 in Queens, NY.
Where did the family member live according to the 1920 Census?

For Example:

• Catherine Felten lived at a different address as 171 Montrose Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.
Now map the movements!

Show how the same person moved over the decades using U.S. Federal Census records. (Even if it’s only from Brooklyn, NY to Queens, NY!)

- You can create a map for as far back as you can track.
- Start a discussion with your family about location, movement and the reasons why.
Go one step further and plan a visit the “old” house / “old neighborhood” as a family trip.

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/521110
Create a Trivia Night!

- Do a Zoom call or FaceTime meetup.
- Pick an ancestor and a record for your trivia game.

For Example: Use Federal Census records and quiz family:

- What was (insert relative’s name) occupation in 1940?
- Did (insert relative’s name) own a radio in 1930?
- Did (insert relative’s name) live on a farm in 1920?
- Was (insert relative’s name) a survivor of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy? (1910 census)

Drawing for a Game Board
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/595519
As part of the challenge or trivia game, you can select a modest prize that can be awarded to the winner!

You can even just send them a “Clapping Applause GIF” by the U.S. National Archives Giphy channel:

https://giphy.com/usnationalarchives

Start a “Family Challenge” around the 1950 Census release (April 2022.) Ask family members to guess what the responses. For example:

• Will your family be living in the same house or neighborhood in 1950 as they did in 1940, according to the U.S. Federal Census?

https://aotus.blogs.archives.gov/2021/03/24/preparing-for-the-1950-census/
Common Connections—U.S. Federal Census Records
"Relatable examples"

Share relatable records as a way of connecting and starting a dialogue.

In the 1940 U.S. Federal Census, Elvis Presley is listed as age 5 in Mississippi.

Record Jacket, Elvis Presley's "Too Much" and "Playing for Keeps"
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/654601
Letter from Linda Kelly, Sherry Bane, and Mickie Mattson to President Dwight D. Eisenhower Regarding Elvis Presley

“We think it is bad enough to send Elvis Presley in the Army, but if you cut his side burns off we will just die!”

Signed Elvis Presley Lovers....

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/594359
Common Connections—Military Records

What Military Records have you found?
• Share veteran’s stories with family.
• Add photos into the story when possible.
• Did you find a photo of a relative in their uniform?
• Connect those records with any current family member serving in the military.

The famous 369th arrive in New York City.  
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/26431290
Veteran’s Service Records can tell family so much i.e.; training, payment, awards, physical descriptions, illnesses, in addition to service.

Albert Gant enlisted in St. Mary’s County, MD on February 5, 1864. He mustered into the U.S. Colored Troops at Fort Monroe, VA, and was mustered out in Brownsville, TX, on March 17, 1866.

Compiled Military Service Record of Albert Gant, United States Colored Troops Artillery (Civil War), Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917.
Share information about awards and certificates.

Charles Hudson, Meritorious Service in the pursuit and capture of Jeff Davis at Irwinsville, GA, May 10.

Read up on any medical conditions and ask around the family—anyone have the same?

Maybe you did inherit eczema from great grandpa!

T.G. Dougherty, WW1 Service Record, May 1918
Is your veteran buried in a national cemetery? Other?

Visiting a veteran’s final resting place can be a powerful way to connect family.

K. N. Walker, Brigadier General, Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Purple Heart, 1945, WWII, Arlington Cemetery, VA.
You can also visit war memorials and ask family if they have visited memorials to connect to your veteran’s service.

Engage by Showing Off!

www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives

How to Preserve Family Archives (papers and photographs)

Maybe a relative sent you old letters, certificates, and family photographs and you are not sure what to do. Maybe you're wondering how to save your child's pictures and other mementos.

These simple tips will help you preserve your family papers and photographs for the next generation. Preventing damage is the key to preserving your items.

- Handling Family Papers and Photographs
- Storing Family Papers and Photographs
- Displaying Family Papers and Photographs
- Digitizing Family Papers and Photographs
- Repairing Damage to Family Papers and Photographs
- What to Do About Moldy or Insect-infested Family Papers and Photographs
- More About Caring for Family Papers and Photographs
• Think about family mementos and where they are kept.
• Does the family have any medals, letters, or certificates to display?
• Make them visible but remember to follow preservation guidelines.
• Make copies, share via email, summarize in a usable way. Put it in context. And show how a record fits into the family story.
Any sports fans in your family?
- Start a conversation and create a connection with them about their favorite team!
- If you have a similar record in your family, show your family version.

World War I Draft Registration Card for George Herman Ruth (Babe Ruth)
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/641780
Engage to Stories of Interest? — Movies

Any *Sound of Music* movie fans in your family?
- Start a conversation about the Von Trapp family members and how they emigrated from Austria to escape Europe as the Nazis rose to power. Talk about family lore and use the records to confirm (or clear up) actual events.

Maria von Trapp, photograph from her Declaration of Intention, dated January 21, 1944.

Do you have any holiday traditions?

- Remember in Frank Capra’s movie, *It’s a Wonderful Life*, which includes the war time story of WWII? Share records about Jimmy Stewart to engage family with military service.

Official Military Personnel File of James M. Stewart. His full service record is online at our catalog at: https://catalog.archives.gov/id/40938631
Engage to Stories of Interest? —Books

Have the kids in your family watched *Little House on the Prairie*?

Did they read the books by Laura Ingalls Wilder?

We have numerous records about the family.

Engage to Stories of Interest?
Ingalls Family example

You can even share Census records listing Mary (age 15), Laura (age 13), Carrie (age 9) and Grace (age 3) on the 1880 U.S. Federal Census.

Do you have any family that went out West to homestead?

Share records about Charles Ingalls to connect.

Homestead Proof Testimony of Charles Ingalls
https://www.archives.gov/research/land/ingalls
Engage to Stories of Interest?
Almanzo Wilder example

Or you can share records about Almanzo Wilder.

Share records about the family to show similarities and differences between your family.

Homestead Proof Testimony of Almanzo Wilder
Engage, Post, & Share Threads – Social Media

History Hub- a research support community for everyone!

“Seeking the immigration records of my great-grandfather who immigrated alone as a child.”

History Hub at History.gov

US National Archives
October 11, 2020 • 0

“My great-grandfather arrived here from Germany alone as a young child in 1880. Where can I find his immigration records?”

See the answer to our #QuestionoftheWeek on #HistoryHub, our crowdsourced platform for history and genealogical research where anyone can ask questions and get answers from archivists and other community members.

https://historyhub.history.gov/thread/6996...
Engage Your Story — On Pinterest

On Pinterest, you can:

- share photos, stories
- tag family & friends
- answer questions
Recently, Auschwitz survivor Lilly Engleman Ebert identified herself in a reel of U.S. Army Signal Corps footage (she is second from right in this photo). Ebert’s great-grandson managed to track down the short clip amongst hours of footage.

Ebert had been imprisoned at Auschwitz before being forced on a death march to Buchenwald, where she was eventually liberated by American soldiers.

www.facebook.com/usnationalarchives
Anyone in the family involved in the suffrage movement?

Share “relatable” stories of significant anniversary events.

Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, Suffragist Leader at 16

#19SuffrageStories
On Twitter, you can:

- share photos, stories
- tag family & friends
- download and share
Engage Your Story — On Your Own Social Media Accounts

On Instagram, you can:

- share photos, stories
- tag family & friends
- answer questions
Engage your family with your findings:

• Use available National Archives templates and activities.
• Consider common connections and talk about them.
• Use social media to share your “research finds” with family.
• Be creative! And have fun!

Questions?

https://giphy.com/gifs/VFMAbdCZlxmg7ftjfU/html5

https://gph.is/g/ajyeWOo
After the broadcast . . .

Email questions to education@nara.gov

Video recordings of lectures and downloadable handouts will remain online at www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair
We value your opinion.

Please take a minute to complete a short evaluation. Your comments help us maintain the quality of our services and plan future programs.

Thank you!

Event Evaluation:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYREventEval
Educational resources on how to access and do research using U.S. Federal Government records held at the National Archives and Records Administration.

Know Your Records

[www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records](http://www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records)

Videos and Handouts on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)
Please stay if you have questions.

Although this concludes the video portion of the broadcast, we will continue to take your questions in Chat for another 10 minutes.